



 **Irish Aid**
Government of Ireland
Rialtas na hÉireann

September 29, 2008

Programme Manager
EFA Fast Track Initiative Secretariat
World Bank
1818 H Street NM
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Mr. Bermingham,

Re: Endorsement of Zambia to The Education for All Fast Track Initiative

We write on behalf of the Zambia Education Sector Cooperating Partners (CP) group.

After an extensive appraisal process which commenced in April 2007, the Cooperating Partners have arrived at a consensus and have agreed to assess Zambia's Education Plan, the National Implementation Plan 2008-2010 (NIF) as a credible education sector plan and to endorse admission to the EFA Fast Track Initiative. The NIF is currently funded by the local donor group through general budget support, the sector pool and a variety of projects. The assessment of the NIF is presented with this letter.

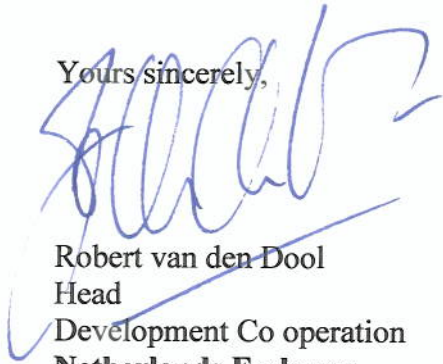
The process of jointly appraising the NIF in the context of the FTI provided more insight into the remaining challenges. During this process, these have been clearly identified and measures have been or are being put in place to address these challenges.

The plan has a significant funding gap. This will make it difficult to reach the ambitious goals of the NIF, which is to reach the MDG2 of quality primary education for all children. As a result, the education CP group supports the request from the Government of Zambia for a contribution of USD 60 million from the FTI Catalytic Fund. Development assistance to Zambia from both bi lateral and multi lateral agencies is delivered in the context of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ). This means that the underlying principles of harmonisation and alignment are important considerations in the Zambian context. It is expected that additional funding through the FTI Catalytic Fund will also be provided through this development assistance framework.

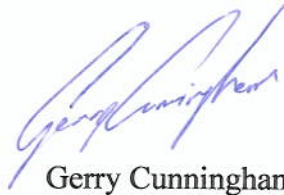
This endorsement is part of the continuing commitment and support of the development partners to the Zambian Government's efforts towards Education for All.

The full list of CPs including signatures to formalise their endorsement is attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Robert van den Dool
Head
Development Co operation
Netherlands Embassy
(Education Co-Lead)



Gerry Cunningham
Head
Development Co operation
Irish Embassy
(Education Co- Lead)

- C.C. Education Sector Cooperating Partners
- C.C. World Bank
- C.C. Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Zambia

LOCAL EDUCATION PARTNERS SIGNING THE FTI ASSESSMENT

Name: Thomas Schjerbeck
Title: Ambassador
For the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark



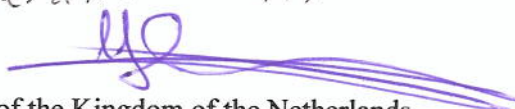
Name: Bill Nolan
Title: Ambassador
For the Government of Ireland



Name: Hideto Mitamura
Title: Ambassador
For the Government of Japan

for Ambassador
町内 俊彦
Chargés d'Affaires. a.i.

Name: Harry Molenaar
Title: Ambassador
For the Minister of Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Name: Tore Gjør
Title: Ambassador
For the Government of the Kingdom of Norway



Name: Joy Hutcheon
Title: Head
For the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland



Name: Melissa Williams
Title: Mission Director of the United States Agency for International Development
For the Government of the United States of America

Shan Lutz 11/10/08
MA

Name: Vivienne Apopo
Title: Country Representative
For the African Development Bank

Name: Derek Fee
Title: Ambassador
For the Delegation of the European Commission

Name: Lotte Sylwander
Title: UNICEF
For the United Nations Development System

11/10/08



Name: Kapil Kapoor
Title: Country Manager
For the World Bank

10/1/08

